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clear B1
absorbent layer, said coating being adapted to retard the initial receipt of liquid by the SAP in the absorbent layer; and

a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon.

B2 sub D1
18. (Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
a topsheet;
a backsheet;
a pair of longitudinally-extending upstanding cuffs, each cuff having two sheet layers;

an absorbent composite including

an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, and

a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon; and

wherein said absorbent layer is disposed between the topsheet and backsheet, and generally centrally at a location identified as a crotch region, said absorbent layer providing an absorbent core for absorbing bodily exudates received in said crotch region[.]; and

wherein said cuffs are spaced laterally from said absorbent core, and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch area into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region.

Please cancel claims 20, 25, 26, 27 and 29.

B7
30. (Amended) In a disposable absorbent having an absorbent core disposed between a topsheet and a backsheet, a prefabricated absorbent composite comprising:

63 an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, and

a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon;

wherein said absorbent layer is disposed between the topsheet and backsheet, and generally centrally in the article at a location identified as a crotch region, said absorbent layer providing an absorbent core for absorbing bodily exudates received by the crotch region[.]; and

wherein the article includes a pair of longitudinally-extending, upstanding cuffs spaced laterally from said absorbent core, each cuff having two sheet layers, and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch region into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region.

Please cancel claim 32.

Please add the following new claims:

84 39. A disposable absorbent article comprising:
a topsheet;
a backsheet; and
an absorbent core disposed therebetween; and
a pair of longitudinally-extending, upstanding cuffs spaced laterally from said absorbent core, each cuff having two sheet layers;
wherein at least one of said backsheet, topsheet, and absorbent core is constructed of an absorbent composite including
an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and super absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded

together by said hydratable fibers a coating of mineral oil over the SAP particles of the absorbent layer, said coating being adapted to retard the initial receipt of liquid by the SAP in the absorbent layer; and

64 a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon.

and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch region into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region.

Clean Version of Pending Claims”

1. A disposable absorbent article comprising:
a topsheet;
a backsheet; and
an absorbent core disposed therebetween;
wherein at least one of said backsheet, topsheet, and absorbent core is constructed of an absorbent composite including
an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and super absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, a coating of mineral oil over the SAP particles of the absorbent layer, said coating being adapted to retard the initial receipt of liquid by the SAP in the absorbent layer; and
a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon.
2. The article of claim 1, further comprising a pair of longitudinally-extending, upstanding cuffs spaced laterally from said core, each said cuff including a folded portion of said topsheet and a longitudinally-extending absorbent composite secured within said folded portion, said longitudinally-extending absorbent composite including
an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and super absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, and
a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon.
3. The article of claim 2, wherein said core includes said first absorbent composite.
4. The article of claim 3, wherein said first absorbent composite and said longitudinally extending absorbent composites of said cuffs are sections of one continuous absorbent composite structure positioned about a crotch region of said article.

5. The article of claim 2, wherein said nonwoven substrate is a section of said topsheet.

6. The article of claim 1, wherein said backsheet is formed from said absorbent composite, said absorbent layer including a low cross link SAP adapted to gel block upon wetting such that said backsheet is substantially impervious when wet and said backsheet is breathable when dry.

7. The absorbent article of claim 6, wherein said SAP are water-swellaable particles included in a concentration in the range of about 50g/m^2 to about 500 g/m^2 .

8. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent core includes a prefabricated sheet of said absorbent composite.

9. The absorbent article of claim 8, wherein said absorbent composite of said core includes a plurality of said absorbent layers, said layers being spaced apart from one another such that non-coated surface sections of said substrate are exposed therebetween.

10. The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein said non-coated surface sections form wicking zones between said absorbent layers.

11. The absorbent article of claim 8, wherein said absorbent layers are laterally spaced, elongated segments.

12. The absorbent article of claim 8, wherein said absorbent composite layer has a corrugated configuration characterized by a plurality of pleats at which distinct adjacent sections of said absorbent composite are mutually adhered.

13. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent composite forms said backsheet and said core, said backsheet having a section providing said nonwoven substrate and said absorbent layer being concentrated at a crotch region of said backsheet to form said absorbent core.

14. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said core includes said absorbent composite, said absorbent composite further including one or more of said absorbent layers disposed over said nonwoven substrate.

15. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent composite further

includes a concentration of pulp material, said absorbent layer and said nonwoven substrate forming a sheet disposed about said pulp concentration such that said pulp concentration is disposed between at least two layers of said sheet of absorbent layer and nonwoven substrate.

16. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent composite forms at least a portion of said topsheet and said absorbent core, said topsheet having a section providing said nonwoven substrate and said absorbent layer forming said core.

17. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent layer includes low-crosslink, low gel strength SAP having free swell capacities of over 40 g/g and such that said absorbent layer is adapted to gel block upon wetting so as to be substantially impervious but is breathable when dry.

18. A disposable absorbent article comprising:
- a topsheet;
 - a backsheet;
 - a pair of longitudinally-extending upstanding cuffs, each cuff having two sheet layers;
 - an absorbent composite including
 - an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, and
 - a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon; and
 - wherein said absorbent layer is disposed between the topsheet and backsheet, and generally centrally at a location identified as a crotch region, said absorbent layer providing an absorbent core for absorbing bodily exudates received in said crotch region; and
 - wherein said cuffs are spaced laterally from said absorbent core, and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch area into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region.
19. The article of claim 18, wherein said absorbent layer is supported underneath a section of said topsheet, such that said section of said topsheet provides said nonwoven substrate of said absorbent composite.
21. The article of claim 18, wherein said absorbent composite located at said crotch region and said longitudinally extending absorbent composites of said cuffs are sections of one continuous absorbent composite structure positioned about the crotch region.
22. The article of claim 18, wherein said absorbent layer is supported on said backsheet, such that a section of said backsheet provides said nonwoven substrate of said absorbent composite.
23. The article of claim 20, wherein said absorbent layer includes a low cross link

SAP adapted to gel block upon wetting such that said backsheet is substantially impervious when wet and said backsheet is breathable when dry.

24. The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein said SAP are water-swellaable bodies included in a concentration of about 20 gsm and said nonwoven substrate is an SMS having a basis weight in the range of about 10 gsm to 60 gsm.

28. The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein said absorbent composite further includes a concentration of pulp material, said absorbent layer and said nonwoven substrate forming a sheet disposed about said pulp concentration such that said pulp concentration is disposed between at least two layers of said sheet of absorbent layer and nonwoven substrate.

30. In a disposable absorbent having an absorbent core disposed between a topsheet and a backsheet, a prefabricated absorbent composite comprising:

an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, and

a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon;

wherein said absorbent layer is disposed between the topsheet and backsheet, and generally centrally in the article at a location identified as a crotch region, said absorbent layer providing an absorbent core for absorbing bodily exudates received by the crotch region; and

wherein the article includes a pair of longitudinally-extending, upstanding cuffs spaced laterally from said absorbent core, each cuff having two sheet layers, and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch region into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region.

31. The absorbent composite of claim 30, wherein said absorbent layer is supported underneath a section of the topsheet, such that said section of topsheet provides said nonwoven substrate of said absorbent composite.

32. The absorbent composite of claim 30, wherein the article includes a pair of longitudinally-extending, upstanding cuffs spaced laterally from said absorbent core, each cuff having two sheet layers, and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch region into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region.

33. The absorbent composite of claim 30, wherein said absorbent layer is supported on a section of the backsheet, such that said backsheet section provides said nonwoven substrate of said absorbent composite.

34. The absorbent composite of claim 33, wherein said absorbent layer includes a low cross link SAP adapted to gel block upon wetting such that said backsheet section is substantially

impervious when wet and said backsheet section is breathable when dry.

35. The absorbent composite of claim 34, wherein said low cross-link SAP is low-gel strength SAP characterized by a free swell capacity greater than about 40 g/g.

36. The absorbent composite of claim 30, wherein said SAP are water-swellaable bodies included in a concentration of about 50 gsm to 500 gsm.

37. The absorbent composite of claim 30, wherein said absorbent composite of said core includes a plurality of said absorbent layers, said layers being spaced apart from one another such that non-coated surface sections of said substrate are exposed therebetween, said non-coated surface sections forming wicking zones between said absorbent layers.

38. The absorbent composite of claim 30, further comprising a coating of mineral oil over the SAP particles of the absorbent layer, said coating being adapted to retard the initial receipt of liquid by the SAP in the absorbent layer.

39. A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a topsheet;

a backsheet;

a pair of longitudinally-extending upstanding cuffs, each cuff having two sheet layers;

an absorbent composite including

an absorbent layer of hydratable fine fibers in the form of microfibril obtained from cellulose or a derivative thereof, and absorbent polymer (SAP) particles bonded together by said hydratable fibers, wherein said cuffs are spaced laterally from said absorbent core, and wherein said absorbent composite includes two longitudinally-extending composite sections extending upwardly from the crotch area into the cuffs and between the cuff layers, said absorbent composite forming an absorbent structure about the crotch region, and

a nonwoven substrate supporting said absorbent layer, said absorbent layer being coated thereupon; and

wherein said absorbent layer is disposed between the topsheet and backsheet, and generally centrally at a location identified as a crotch region, said absorbent layer providing an absorbent core for absorbing bodily exudates received in said crotch region.